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Item 72 (b) of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament: further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/53/50.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/116 O of 15 December 1989, entitled "Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof," the relevant operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly,*
>
> "...
>
> "8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report by 1992, and every three years thereafter until the fourth Review Conference is convened, on technological developments relevant to the Treaty and to the verification of compliance with the Treaty, including dual-purpose technologies for peaceful and specified military ends; in carrying out this task he should draw from official sources and from contributions by States parties to the Treaty and may use the assistance of appropriate expertise;
>
> "9. *Urges* all States parties to the Treaty to assist the Secretary-General accordingly by providing information and drawing his attention to suitable sources".

2. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to States parties to the Treaty inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in section II of the present report. Any other replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to point out that the information submitted to him by States parties to the Treaty does not provide sufficient official material for him to report on the subject-matter on the basis indicated in paragraph 8 of the resolution.

II. Replies received from Governments

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]
[15 April 1998]

Antigua and Barbuda refers to its note of 8 April 1998 (DDA/2-98/Sea-Bed) pertaining to General Assembly resolution 44/116 O, entitled "Review Conference of he Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof", and states categorically that Antigua and Barbuda is fully supportive of the Treaty. It reports that there have been no technological developments in the country that can impact in any way, manner or form on the Treaty.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: Arabic]
[19 May 1998]

Saudi Arabia possesses no nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, it has no information to report on technological developments relevant to the Treaty and to the verification of compliance with the Treaty. On the other hand, it stresses that it is bound by and complies fully with the provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

Switzerland

[Original: French]
[22 June 1998]

Switzerland states that it has no information to report on the subject.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[12 June 1998]

The United Kingdom states that it has no new information to contribute.